

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Derek Schmidt at 8:30 a.m. on January 14, 2004 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Robert Myers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Adrian Polansky, Secretary of Agriculture - Kansas Department of Agriculture
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary - Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Secretary Polansky presented to the committee about food safety activities as found within the Kansas Department of Agriculture (Attachment 1). He described these activities as being divided into four principle categories:

- 1) dairy inspection
- 2) meat and poultry inspection
- 3) agricultural commodities assurance
- 4) weights and measures

Secretary Polansky, on behalf of KDA, expressed support for the Legislative Post Audit and its recommendation for coordination with KDHE. Furthermore, he expressed the willingness of the department to comply with the Executive Reorganization Order announced that morning by Governor Sebelius.

Secretary Bremby presented to the committee about food safety activities as found within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Attachment 2).

Secretary Bremby discussed the effects of cooperation between KDHE and KDA under the Governor's ERO, highlighting the following two aspects:

- 1) The realignment of responsibility for inspecting retail food stores and processing plants with KDA.
- 2) The continued responsibility of KDHE to oversee food service establishments.

Senator Downey requested a list of the greatest concerns from KDHE and KDA with regard to the need for federal funds in implementing new food safety responsibilities. She suggested the use of this list in a letter of concern on behalf of the committee to the federal government.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2004.